

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Please replace the Abstract beginning at page 26, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An object of the present invention is to enable precise and easy adjustment of clock skew. A clock distribution circuit is designed $[(S1)]$ and the placement and routing of the entire chip including the clock distribution circuit follows $[(S2)]$. Then the clock skew value is calculated $[(S3)]$ and whether the calculated clock skew exceeds a target value is checked $[(S4)]$. When the clock skew exceeds the target value, the outputs of some driver elements are disconnected or connected to adjust the clock skew $[(S51)]$. The ~~process of~~ the steps S3, S4 and S51 is disconnecting or connecting the outputs of the drivers are repeated until the clock skew becomes equal to or smaller than the target value.